

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 03139 131557Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7103
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3139

EXDIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PDEV, RE
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO NIGERIA ON ALL-PARTIES MEETING

REF: STATE 063495

1. FALLE AND I PRESENTED REFTTEL'S TALKING POINTS EARLY THIS MORN-
ING TO MEA AFRICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AKADIRI. HE PROMISED TO
BRING OUR PRESENTATION TO OBASANJO'S IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.
2. AKADIRI SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO INFORM US, BUT ON A HIGHLY CONFI-
DENTIAL BASIS, THAT OBASANJO AND THE FMG FULLY SUPPORTED
THE CONCEPT OF THE ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE BEING PROPOSED BETWEEN
US AND UK. HE ASKED US TO PROTECT THIS CONFIDENCE. HE FULLY
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 03139 131557Z

AGREED WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING THE PF TO ATTEND THE MEETING
BUT HE WAS WORRIED THAT THEY WOULD REFUSE TO SIT WITH SMITH AND
CHIRAU. WE INDICATED THAT NYERERE AND KAUNDA SEEMED WILLING TO
SUPPORT A CONFERENCE INCLUDING SMITH BUT PROBABLY NOT CHIRAU.
WE EXPLAINED US/UK POSITION REGARDING A CONFERENCE IN WHICH NOT
ALL PARTIES WOULD PARTICIPATE.

3. AKADIRI SAID HE ASSUMED GARBA WAS NOW IN LONDON ENROUTE LAGOS. OBASANJO, IF WILLING, WOULD CONTACT GARBA OR THE ACTING NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LONDON TO INSTRUCT THAT THE PF BE URGED TO AGREE TO A MEETING. AKADIRI REITERATED EARLIER STATEMENTS TO US BY GARBA TO THE EFFECT THAT NIGERIA HAD ABOUT EXHAUSTED ITS INFLUENCE ON THE PF, WHOSE LEADERS VIEWED THE FMG AS HAVING BEEN SOLD A 'BILL OF GOODS' BY THE US AND THE UK. NONE-THELESS, AKADIRI SAID, NIGERIA CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE A-A PLAN AND WAS WILLING TO MAKE THIS POSITION CLEAR TO THE PF ONCE AGAIN.

4. WE TOLD AKADIRI WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO TALK DPRECTLY WITH OBASANJO SHOULD HE WISH ANY FURTHER DE-
TAILS. AKADIRI WAS UNAWARE
OF ANY INTENTION BY GARBA TO CALL NKOMI AND MUGABE TO LAGOS (AS GARBA APPARENTLY TOLD SECRETARY VANCE, ACCORDING TO ONE OF FALLE'S WEEKEND TELEGRAMS FROM WASHINGTON.)

5. FALLE GAVE AKADIRI A COPY OF DAVID OWEN'S STATEMENT OF MARCH 10. AKADIRI SAID HE THOUGHT WE HAD ALL 'COME BACK A BIT FROM THE BRINK.' NIGERIA HAD BEEN INITIALLY ALARMED BY AN APPARENT ACCEPTANCE OF THE
INTERNAL TALKS BY THE UK AND 'TO A
LESSER DEGREE' THE US. HE THOUGHT THAT NOW RPT NOW THE SITUATION MAY HAVE RIGHTED ITSELF. FALLE AND I SAID MUCH DEPENDS ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE PF AND IN PARTICULAR ON ITS WILLINGNESS TO
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PAGE 03 LAGOS 03139 131557Z

JOIN IN THE PROPOSED TALKS. WE REITERATED OUR HOPE THAT THE FMG WOULD LEND ITS SUPPORT AS FEASIBLE AND APPROPRIATE. AKADIRI SAID WE COULD COUNT ON IT.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GARBA'S MARCH 10 REMARKS TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE US AND ESPECIALLY THE BRITISH STANCE ON THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WERE INTEMPERATE AND SURELY MUST HAVE ANGERED DAVID OWEN IN PARTICULAR, THEY MAY HAVE REPRESENTED AS SUCH A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO RESTORE THE PF'S LOST CONFIDENCE IN NIGERIA AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF GARBA'S PENCHANT FOR FLAIR AND OCCASIONAL CARELESS OVERSIMPLIFICATION.
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